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Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 04888 021241Z

56
ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 EB-07 IGA-02 AGR-05

SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 H-02 PRS-01 /070 W
---------- 026959
R 021135Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5063
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 4888

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, IN
SUBJECT: TITLE I PL 480

REF: STATE 75460, STATE 72610, STATE 67759

SUMMARY: WE HAVE BEGUN THE ELABORATE MATING DANCE WHICH SEEMS TO CHARACTERIZE CERTAIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOI. THE FIRST STEP, THE FORMAL OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS, IS LIKELY TO TAKE PLACE EARLY NEXT WEEK. END SUMMARY

1. AS REPORTED IN NEW DELHI 4299, EMBASSY MADE VERBAL TITLE I OFFER ON MARCH 23 BUT SUGGESTED THAT TALKS NOT BEGIN UNTIL MARCH 31 IN VIEW OF CROWDED SCHEDULE OF MOF AND EMBASSY. ON MARCH 31 ECON COUNSELOR TELEPHONED KRISHNASWAMY (MOF) AND ASKED WHETHER GOI WAS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE. IN GOOD SOUTH INDIAN BRAHMANICAL STYLE, KRISHNASWAMY FIRST TOOK POSITION THAT NO OFFER HAD BEEN MADE (SINCE NO PIECE OF PAPER HAD BEEN DELIVERED), BUT THEN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE US OFFER HAD ALREADY BEEN CIRCULATED TO ALL RELEVANT GOI MINISTRIES AND THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. NEVERTHELESS, HE STATED THAT A WRITTEN OFFER WOULD BE HELPFUL. ACCORDINGLY, ON APRIL 1 A WRITTEN OFFER WAS DELIVERED. KRISHNASWAMY ACKNOWLEDGED THIS AND HAS TOLD US THAT THIS LETTER WAS NOW BEING CIRCULATED AND HE EXPECTED TO BE ABLE TO SIT DOWN WITH EMBASSY NEGOTIATING TEAM VERY EARLY NEXT WEEK.

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 04888 021241Z

2. COMMENT: WE ARE NOT CERTAIN THAT WE COMPREHEND THE REASONS

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

FOR THIS UNUSUALLY FORMAL APPROACH TO NEGOTIATIONS WHICH IS NOT NORMALLY CHARACTERISTIC OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE. IT MAY BE THAT, AS G.K. REDDY HAS REPORTED (MADRAS 0611), THE GOI FEELS CONSTRAINED TO DELAY SLIGHTLY IN OPENING NEGOTIATIONS IN ORDER TO MATCH THE USG DELAY IN EXTENDING AN OFFER. WHATEVER THE REASON, WE EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS IN A FEW DAYS AND HAVE NO REASON NOT TO ACCEPT KRISHNASWAMY'S STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD EXPECT NEGOTIATIONS TO MOVE VERY QUICKLY ONCE THEY COMMENCE.
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 02 APR 1976
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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